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Arming Castro: A top-secret CIA report notes a significant development in Soviet military aid to Cuba in recent years. Until about 1978, the Russians shipped an average of 11,000 tons of military hardware to Cuba each year.

"The bulk of military tonnage consisted of small arms, mortars and ammunition," the CIA reported, adding that there was "no evidence of a shift since 1968 in the basic Soviet policy of replacing Cuban military supplies and equipment, but with a minimum of upgrading."

But in 1978, the shipments began to include more sophisticated weaponry. And the volume has also increased. Last year, the Russians sent Cuba 63,000 tons of war materiel, twice as much as in 1980, and three times the amount sent in any single year since 1962.

Intelligence agencies estimate the total value of Soviet arms shipped to Cuba so far at some \$2.5 billion, and one-fifth of that arrived in 1981.